France Puts Peacetime Ban on American Troops

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The de Gaulle government has told U.S. diplomats it will not allow American military forces back on French soil in peacetime.

This is part of what Washington sources described yesterday as a tough position taken by the French government in negotiations following its eviction notice against North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces on French Territory.

The United States is in the process of moving out its troops and equipment.

Still pending are final arrangements on such items as the NATO installations in France, including the pipeline which carries oil from the British Channel to U.S. forces in Germany, overflight rights and radar warning systems.

The U.S. ambassador at Paris, Charles E. Bohlen, was reported to have met with Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville twice to discuss the French position. Couve de Murville was said to have made plain that France will permit no U.S. troops or military material to remain in France during peacetime.

The only circumstance under which the Americans could return would be in the event of a French declaration of war, the French minister is reported to have stated.

On the pipeline, it was understood that the French want to be in full charge of it.

The U.S. sources said no discussions have been held yet about the French radar warning system which remains plugged into the general NATO network.

On overflight rights, Paris was reported continuing to grant, on a month-by-month basis, permission for Allied planes to use French air space.